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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /059 W
----------170416Z 022426 /21
R 161705Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4632
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJECT: PCI COMPLETES CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: ROME 7884

SUMMARY. THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (CPI) COMLETED ITS CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) MEETING MAY 13 AFTER HEARING AN INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE DRAFTING OF THE PARTY'S LONG HERALDED MIDDLE TERM PLAN AND AFTER APPROVING A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL CHANGES. THE GENERAL TONE OF THE CC WAS SUBDUED WITH LITTLE DEBATE AND WITH NO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY ANY PARTY LEADERS OTHER THAN THE TWO RAPPORTEURS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE PCI ENDED ITS TWO-DAY CC MEETING ON MAY 13 AFTER HEARING A REPORT BY GIORGIO NAPOLITANO ON PROGRESS IN DRAFTING THE PARTY'S MIDDLE TERM PLAN AND

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AFTER APPROVING A LIMITED NUMBER OF PERSONNEL SHIFTS. A REVIEW OF THE PUBLISHED RECORD OF THE CC INDICATES THAT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE ACTUAL DEBATE, AND NO PUBLIC DIFFERENCES OF OPINION EMERGED AS DURING SOME CC MEETINGS IN THE RECENT PAST.

2. THE PRINICIPAL THEME CONSIDERED ON THE SECOND DAY

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OF THE CC WAS THE PARTY'S MIDDLE TERM PLAN, NAPOLITANO STATED THAT THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT A SATISFACTORY DRAFT HAD YET BEEN PRODUCED AND ATTRIBUTED THE DELAY TO QUOTE A VARIETY OF REASONS END QUOTE. HE INDICATED THAT THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE IN THE NEAR FUTURE WILL REWORK THE DRAFT DOCUMENT, BASED ON OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS ALREADY RECEIVED FROM THE PARTY DIRECTORATE AND THOSE WHICH WILL BE CONTRIBUTED BY CC MEMBERS. AFTER THE DRAFT IS COMPLETED, IT WILL BE PUBLISHED AND WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF AS WIDE A DEBATE AS POSSIBLE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE BEING PUT INTO FINAL FORM FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION AT A FUTURE CC MEETING.

3. JUDGING FROM NAPOLITANO'S SPPECH AND PRESS REPORTS, THERE ARE PRESENTLY FOUR MAJOR SECTIONS OF THE DRAFT PLAN. THE FIRST IS A PREAMBLE WHICH RUNS TO ABOUT 40 PAGES. THERE THEN FOLLOWS ABOUT 35 PAGES OF TEXT DEALING WITH THE ECONOMY AND CENTERING OF THE THEME OF AUSTERITY. THE DRAFT ALSO INCLUDES A SECTION DEVOTED TO THE CONDITION OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY, TO PROBLEMS OF YOUTH, AND TO REFORM OF THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION AND IT CONCLUDES WITH A SECTION ON THE POLTICIS OF DETENTE AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. ACCORDING TO NAPOLITANO, THIS LAST PART OF THE DOCU-MENT WILL SPECIFY PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES IN THE OPERATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND IDEAS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW TYPE OF RELATION-SHIP WITH HHE COUNTRIES OF THE THRID WORLD.
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4. PRIOR TO CONCLUDING ITS WORK, THE CC APPROVED THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL CHANGES: LUCA PAVOLINI TO ENTER THE SECRETARIAT AND TO HEAD THE PARTY SECTION FOR PRESS AND PROPAGANDA. PAOLO BUFALINI, WHO FORMERLY HEADED THISSECTION, WILL REMAIN IN THE SECRETARIAT AND WILL DEAL WITH GENERAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS. ALFREDO REICHLIN WILL DIRECT THE PARTY DAILY L'UNITA AND ADALBERTO MINUCCI WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR RINASCITA. ALDO TORTORELLA, CHIEF OF THE PARTY'S CULTURAL SECTION, WILL ALSO HAVE RESPONSIBLITY FOR THE MONTHLY CRITICA MARXISTA WITH GIUSEPPE CHIARANTE, FORMERLY CHIEF OF THE SECTION FOR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES BECOMING CO-DIRECTOR OF THE THEORETICAL JOURNAL. ACHILLE OCCHETTO, FORMERLY SICILIAN REGIONAL SECRETARY OF THE PARTY, WILL HEAD THE SECTION FOR SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES. FINALLY, SEVEN NEW MEMBERS WERE CO-OPTED INTO THE CC. THE ARE GAVINO ANGIUS, LOVRANO BISSO, BRUNO FERRERO, RENZO GIANOTTI,

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ENRICO MARRUCCI, MICHELE VENTURA AND ONOFRIO VESSIA.

5. COMMENT. CONTRARY TO WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, THE CC MEETING WAS VIRTUALLY A NON-EVENT. THE TONE OF THE SPEECHES AND INTERVENTIONS WAS QUITE SUBDUED, AND, ASIDE FROM NATTA AND NAPOLITANO, NONE OF THE MAJOR PARTY FIGURES PARTICIPATED IN THE DEBATE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE LEADERSHIP FELT IT USEFUL FOR OPTICAL PURPOSES TO HAVE THE TYPE OF BROAD APPROVAL FOR ITS LINE WHICH A FULL CC SESSION CONVEYS. THIS WAS PERHAPS ALL THE MORE NECESSARY WHEN THE LEADERSHIP APPEARS TO BE BACKING OFF ITS MAXIMALIST POSTION (THE NEED FOR A CHANGE IN THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL FRAMEWORK) AND TO BE PREPARING THEPARTY FOR SOME TYPE OF LIMITED AGREEMENT WITH THE OTHER PARTIES OF THE SO-CALLED CONSTITUTIONAL ARC ON A LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE OF QUOTE THINGS TO BE DONE END QUOTE. EVER MINDFUL OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE CONFUSION AT SOME LEVELS OF ITS BASE, A FACTOR NOTED BY SOME OF THE CC SPEAKERS, THE LEADERSHIP, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CC, IS FANNING OUT OVER THE COUNTRY FOR A SERIS OF MEETINGS WITH THE PARTY'S RANK AND FILE MEMEBERS.

6. AS FOR THE PERSONNEL CHANGES, THEY ARE UNDOUBTEDLY DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN THE PCI'S WORK AND CONTACTS AMONG THE MASSES. INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR US SUGGESTS THAT BUFALINI WAS RELIEVED OF HIS PRESS AND PROPAGANDA RESPONSIBILITIES BECAUSE OF POOR HEALTH, AND IT IS THUS PERHAPS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE LOSES HIS POSITION ON THE SECRETARIAT. THE ONLY REAL LOSER IS CHIARANTE, WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN A FORCE IN THE PARTY, WHILE OCCHETTO, WHO IS ONLY 40 YEARS OLD, IS OBVIOUSLY A PERSON TO WATCH FOR THE FUTURE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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